

## Church News

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six of the thirty-three members, being three years old, were graduated in white gowns and mortarboard caps at a special Sunday-school service for them; the diplomas, tied with Cradle Roll colors being handed them by the pastor. A systematic campaign for new members was at once begun; the little tots were visited in their homes and the mothers frequently listed in the Home Department. Numbers have come into the church through a real interest taken in the babies. Now, as of old, "a little child shall lead them." After all, it is very easy to notice the babies—in the cars, on the street, anywhere, everywhere; and making friends with a baby wins the mother as well. Miss Kirkland stops every baby she sees, and if it is not on some other Cradle Roll, seldom fails to enroll it in her own. On the roll are American babies, Mexican babies, Jewish babies, and many other nationalities. One was born in Korea, another in Central America, some are in Oklahoma, and in towns elsewhere in Texas. Their parents represent the Roman Catholic faith, the Jewish religion, and nearly every known denomination and no denomination. They represent every walk in life, from saloon-keepers to ministers. It is still growing. On October 1st sixty-two were promoted to the Beginners' Department, and 215 are left on the roll to inspire us to greater efforts to reach even "the least of these." We expect this year to answer the call to double the Cradle Roll Department as well as in gifts for Foreign Missions.

**Weatherford:** On October 1st we closed the meeting here. The pastors wanted the meeting to draw the town together, and they feel this was accomplished. There was a fine spirit from the very start. It was very manifest that God was there, from the still, quiet solemnity that frequently settled down upon the meeting. The women kept up daily ward prayer meetings in various parts of the town; our men met each afternoon, except Sunday, down town for prayer, and the young people met just before the evening service. The spiritual life of the churches of the town was materially quickened and the love divine burned in our hearts. As one leading business man expressed it at our last men's meeting, "Weatherford has less hate, and more love than she has seen for years." This seemed to be the great desire of all, and was realized. There were twenty-three persons reached in the meeting, all but five by profession of faith. Of these, four were Presbyterians, two Cumberland Presbyterians, thirteen Methodists, three Baptists, and one who had not decided fully upon the church.

Cor.

**Fort Worth:** I want to thank Dr. A. F. Carr, of Broadway Presbyterian church, and friends, for a check of \$106 with which to purchase a Ford for our work as evangelist and superintendent Home Missions, Fort Worth Presbytery. I assure each one who so generously helped of my appreciation. I shall endeavor to add enough to this to purchase the machine, and hope soon to be able to have the use of a Ford for my work.

John E. McLean.

### WEST VIRGINIA.

**Shepherdstown:** Sunday, October 15, 1916, Mr. C. S. Billinger and W. L. Herr were ordained and installed ruling elders. Prof. A. D. Kenamond, who had been a ruling elder in the West Liberty church, U. S. A., was also installed as ruling elder in the Shepherdstown church.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Rev. George F. Robertson, from Marion, Ala., to Charlotte, N. C., after November 1, 1916.

Rev. Thomas A. Spooner from Glenwood, Ark., to Oakdale, La.

### PERSONAL.

Dr. William M. Anderson, of the First Church, Dallas, Tex., who has been ill for some time, is reported to be rapidly improving. He is up and able to walk around the house. His physician thinks his recovery is wonderful as well as rapid.

Rev. Thomas Chalmers Vinson, of our Congo mission at Luebo, Africa, was married in the First church, Sherman, Texas, on October 11th, to Miss Nannie Novelle Wharton, daughter of Rev. Dr. T. A. Wharton. The father of the bride performed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Vinson will go at once to Africa.

### CHRISTMAS BOXES WANTED.

We are going to take Santa Claus by the forelock and send out this appeal early.

We want our friends to send us boxes, barrels and packages of second-hand clothing, as in former years, for our poorer Mexican families in our Texas-Mexican mission work. We will be grateful also for anything that will help us to make our Christmas entertainments more enjoyable.

Send all boxes prepaid, and please write me before shipping.

Walter S. Scott,  
Taylor, Tex. Evangelist.

### ASSEMBLY'S HOME MISSIONS.

#### Loyalty to Church.

The measure of a man's loyalty to Christ may be indicated by his interest in the missionary operations of his church just as his patriotism can be measured by the sacrifices he is willing to make for his country's welfare.

#### Intensity of Patriotism.

In Europe's great war we are told that up to this time 38,000,000 men have responded to the call of king and country, and that \$100,000,000 per day is being spent by these nations to maintain their respective national ideals. Neither life nor treasure is being withheld in loyalty to their country's need. It is estimated that the toll in dead, missing and seriously wounded has averaged 26,000 per day since the war began. Millions of women and girls have taken the places of men and boys in field and factory to release them for duty in the trenches and on the firing line.

No matter what we may think of this war, of the causes that are responsible and the cost it has involved, we cannot withhold our admiration from those willing to make the sacrifices and express their loyalty and devotion to the nation's cause in this way.

#### "Our Warfare."

Would that we could have in our Home Mission work this same spirit of loyalty and devotion on the part of Christ's professed followers! Does not this love of country shame our love of Christ and devotion to his cause? We call Christ King, but how meagre are the sacrifices we have been willing to make for his kingdom.

Yet there is no undertaking calling for devotion and sacrifice more vitally important than the evangelization of America. This is imperative if our country is to fulfill her divinely appointed mission of ministering to mankind. All our people must be brought to the determination to make God supreme in their thought and acts. No material strength of numbers, of wealth or of influence can take the place of this. The love of Christ, the love of Church, and the love of coun-

try all unite in emphasizing the supreme obligation resting upon us as Christians to do Christ's work and press his claim upon the attention of men.

#### Why Not Equal Devotion?

Is it possible to estimate the results to Christ's kingdom if the sacrifices of Christians should equal the devotion of men of the world to their secular interests? It is certain that our faithful Home missionaries would not be compelled to labor without an adequate support and without buildings and proper material equipment with which to do their work; the Home Mission Committee would not now be struggling under the burden of a heavy debt which keeps it from entering many waiting and needy fields.

If our interest in the Assembly's Home Missions is fully expressed by our gifts, its exact measure is not difficult to compute. Our Church gave last year to this great cause of winning America to Christ an average of one cent per week per person, a total of fifty cents per member for the support of its Home Mission army. Is this the full measure of our Christian patriotism? Is not our interest in extending Christ's kingdom in America greater than this?

#### What Are the Needs?

It has been forcibly said that "as we lift up our eyes and look out upon the vast and varied fields, we are confronted with the greatest missionary opportunity that has come to any people since the days of the apostles."

In its various activities, the Home Mission Committee "represents so many fields, so many interests, pioneers so many enterprises, lays the foundations of so many possibilities, places its hand beneath the burden on so many shoulders, that in its appeal many, many voices make their plea."

In the neglected mountain districts, thousands of worthy people, shut off from all enlightening and elevating influences, are pleading for a brother's chance. They are looking to us for the church and the school to lead them from the night of ignorance to the light of knowledge. Shall we disappoint them?

It would be impossible to overstate the condition or to exaggerate the need of the multitudes of negroes that are asking for education and Christianity. Our denominational responsibility for these people cannot be evaded. The spirit of Christ in his manifest approval of the work being done is leading our Church to a larger effort in their behalf.

Millions of immigrants from the Old World are at our doors, and open to the gospel. No work is more appealing or far-reaching in its results. Our efforts in their behalf have been wonderfully blessed. Some one has said that the foreigner in America is God's latest and greatest appeal to His Church. Here Home and Foreign Missions blend and the two become one.

In the Southwest, and in the newer sections of our country, there is the call for churches and for pastors to train a people without religious privileges in the fear of God and Christian faith.

In all an army of 428 missionaries, ministers and teachers are aided in whole or in part by the Assembly's Committee and represent our Church on the firing line in the fierce contest with the forces of sin and Satan.

#### Funds Required.

After the most careful consideration of the opportunities and obligations, the General Assembly named \$324,000 as the minimum sum necessary for its Home Mission work this year. Six months have passed, and the receipts for this cause to October 1st were \$61,935.22. During this same period

there has been expended \$86,264.76 to meet the actual cost of the work, making a deficit on the present year of \$24,329.54.

If this shortage is considered in connection with the fact that the Committee began the year, April 1st, with a debt of \$13,000, being the accumulation of the deficits of the previous two years, it will be seen that the indebtedness on the Committee at this time is \$37,329.54; and how very important it is that every church, not providing for the Assembly's Home Missions in the every member canvass, make an earnest effort during November to secure a generous contribution for this cause.

An average contribution of \$1 from every member in our Church would pay the Home Mission debt and enable the Committee to meet every obligation that is resting upon it. Is this too much to expect for a work so important and for needs so great?

### GIVING AND GETTING BACK THROUGH ASSEMBLY'S HOME MISSIONS.

By Rev. J. P. Robertson, D. D.

I believe it was Secker who said "Many would serve themselves in serving the Lord." A temptation of our stronger Home Mission Synods is to send money to the Assembly's Committee only in order to get back what they want, or can thereby secure; while the temptation of our self-supporting Synods is to concentrate upon their own sections, because they no longer need or cannot secure assistance. We should try to get a statesmanlike grasp of the place filled and the part performed by this Committee in our great scheme of world-wide evangelization. Our Assembly's Committee is fostering the outlying communities and the thinly populated regions; now being rapidly settled, that a broad basis of strength for the Church in the future may be established. Our last Assembly said we should not "Moravianize our Church." We should not starve the work at home for the sake of making it bigger abroad. Such a policy would recoil upon us. It not only would result in a tiny, starveling Church here; it in the end would impoverish and cripple the work across the sea. It would bring old age and decrepitude upon the father before the son is big and strong enough to be self-supporting. It would bring the penalty, suffered by Congregationalists and Presbyterians in New England, for neglecting the home field and leaving the ground to be captured by Unitarians and migrating Catholics. It would make such Synods as Virginia and the Carolinas strong, and the younger Synods permanently weak.

Great Britain, since her one colossal blunder with the thirteen American colonies, has been "passing" wise. She fed and fostered Canada until the war came, and then the child could furnish half a million loyal troops to defend the mother country. Though compelled to thrash South Africa, she so quickly and deftly conciliated that this recently rebellious child is, though largely of alien lineage, now fighting her battles.

The same state policy has proved equally wise in the Church. Texas and Arkansas, for example, were once covered with scattered, discouraged groups of Presbyterians. They were helped, and already these Synods are giving more to Foreign Missions than was ever spent upon them. Let us build up the base as fast as the upper structure. Some day we will thus have a pyramid as broad as the world and reaching to heaven.

Our Mountain Missions—a part of which is aptly named the "Guerrant Inland Mission," in memory of the